

CHAPTER 6

Facilities and Equipment Program

Section I. General

The purpose of the Facilities and Equipment Program is to install electronic communication, navigation and information systems to enhance the safety of flight and the use of Virginia's air transportation system.

The funding source for this program is the Aviation Special Fund.

Section II. State Financial Participation

In those instances where the Department will retain ownership and responsibility for maintenance, the Department is responsible for procurement and installation and will pay all of the cost (100-percent) with only minor exceptions (refer to Sponsor Responsibilities in Sections II, A, 1&2). This is typically the case for a navigational aid installation such as a non-directional beacon, localizer, glide slope, and/or an associated approach lighting system as listed in Section III of this chapter.

In cases where it is more appropriate for the sponsor to retain ownership and responsibility for maintenance, the Department will award a grant of funds to a sponsor to complete the project. It is the intent of the Board that a sponsor shall first apply for funding under the F&E Program. If there are insufficient funds to address a sponsor's needs, then it should apply for Commonwealth Airport Funding under the Airport Capital Improvement Program (ACIP). Upon review of a sponsor's ACIP, the Department will make a determination as to the eligibility, justification and availability of funding under the F&E Program. The Department will immediately notify the Sponsor if there is insufficient funding and ask if he wishes to resubmit under the CIP.

Absent any unusual circumstances, the state's funding share for sponsor-owned facilities and equipment is 80 or 8-percent of the eligible project cost depending upon the source(s) of public funding assistance. For projects such as automated weather observation systems (AWOS), pilot-briefing systems, ground communications outlets (GCO), and other items listed in Section III of this chapter, the sponsor assumes the primary role in project implementation. The sponsor will be responsible for design, procurement, installation and maintenance of these systems. The role of the Department is to review and approve the engineering agreements, design, and funding amounts. It will also insure that the installation is performed in accordance with the design.

In all instances the sponsor shares in the project's responsibilities and is a participant in the implementation. The responsibilities may vary depending on the scenarios mentioned above.

A. Department-Owned and Maintained Systems

1. The Sponsor shall be responsible for the following project actions:

- ✍ Attend pre-design conference.
- ✍ Provide an acceptable source of electrical power to the site specified by the Department.
- ✍ Acquire by lease or purchase all land necessary for the facility and its operation.
- ✍ Maintenance of the site (not the operational equipment of the item or system) to include mowing, snow-removal and cleanliness.

2. The Department shall be responsible for the following project actions:

- ✍ Conduct the pre-design conference
- ✍ Design
- ✍ Procurement and inventory
- ✍ Installation
- ✍ Performing the final acceptance inspection
- ✍ Periodic inspections
- ✍ Ground inspections, flight inspections and commissioning
- ✍ Maintenance and enhancements

B. Sponsor-Owned and Maintained Systems

1. The Sponsor shall be responsible for the same project actions as contained in Section II,A, 1 and the following:

- ✍ Conduct the pre-design conference
- ✍ Design
- ✍ Procurement and inventory
- ✍ Installation
- ✍ Performing the final acceptance inspection
- ✍ Periodic inspections
- ✍ Ground inspections, flight inspections and commissioning
- ✍ Maintenance and enhancements

2. The Department shall be responsible for the following project actions:

- ✍ Attend Pre-design conference.
- ✍ Review and approve engineering agreements and design.
- ✍ Conduct inspections of the installation as required.
- ✍ Approve requests for reimbursement.

Section III. Eligible Projects

In order for a project to be eligible for funding by the Commonwealth, it must be identified on the sponsor's approved Airport Layout Plan and must be identified in the Department's Facilities and Equipment Plan. The following items are eligible for acquisition and installation.

A. Department-Owned Equipment

- ✍ Non-directional Beacons (NDB)
- ✍ Localizer
- ✍ Glide Slope to complete a Category I Instrument Landing System (ILS)
- ✍ Distance Measuring Equipment (DME)
- ✍ Medium Intensity Approach Lighting System with Runway Alignment Indicator Lights (MALSR)
- ✍ AWOS Networking Systems
- ✍ Differential GPS (DGPS) or Local Area Augmentation Systems (LAAS)
- ✍ UNICOM transceivers

B. Sponsor-Owned Equipment

- ✍ Visual aids such as obstruction marking/lighting, retroreflective markers, for taxiways and ramps, centerline retroreflective markers, visual approach guidance aids, rotating beacons, windcones, segmented circles, PAPIs, REILs, ODALS, etc.
- ✍ Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS)
- ✍ Pilot weather briefing systems
- ✍ Ground Communications Outlets (GCO)
- ✍ Pilot-controlled lighting (PCL)

Section IV. Application Process

The Department will accept a written request, in letter form, from any sponsor specifying a project and its justification at any time and will determine its eligibility.

A written response will be made to the sponsor providing notification of the project's status (approval, approval with modifications or disapproval). Upon approval, with or without modifications, the response will specify the scope of work and the amount of funding allocated. The response can also address planned modifications and their reasons.

Section V. Grant Agreement

Even though many F&E projects do not involve direct granting of funds to the sponsor, the sponsor will need to execute a Grant Agreement prior to any installation. As with other programs, the Grant Agreement will contain certain assurances that are deemed necessary to protect the Commonwealth's interest and investment in the equipment and the airport. The Grant Agreement will also specify the sponsor's responsibilities as they relate to the operation and maintenance of the equipment and the site. Grant Assurances are addressed in Section III, Chapter 8.

Section VI. Facility Installation and Commissioning

During the installation (by contractor), the Department is responsible for periodic inspections to observe the quality of work. The sponsor will be required to create a safe work environment for the contractor's personnel and equipment, and all users while the airport is open to all forms of traffic.